

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

Applicant(s): Gunter R. FÜHR et al.
Serial No: 10/564,904 Group Art Unit: 3744
Filed: February 21, 2006 Examiner:
Att. Docket No.: B1180/20051 Confirmation No.: 2250
For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR HANDLING A PROBE

IDS CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. No copies of U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications are attached. 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2)(ii). It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. No representation is made that the reference(s) is/are prior art with respect to this application.

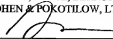
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA under 37 CFR § 1.53(d), within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491 in an international application, before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE under 37 CFR § 1.114. No certification or fee is required. 37 CFR § 1.97(b).

U.S. Patent No. 5,048,300 is an English-language counterpart of DE 40 12 600. U.S. Patent No. 5,730,777 is an English-language counterpart of DE 694 26 116.

The reference(s) was/were cited in the International Search Report of the counterpart international application of this national stage application. As noted on the Notice of Acceptance, the PTO received from the international office a copy of the International Search Report. Thus, a copy of the Report is not attached.

November 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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